

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 8 and 17-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '265 patent in view of the '573 publication.

As argued above, Applicants submit that the amendment to claim 1 renders it novel and patentable over the '265 patent. The '573 publication is silent regarding parting zones in the interlabial pad and, therefore, does not cure the deficiency of the '265 patent in teaching parting zones crossing over the back face side sheet from one edge to another. Claims 8 and 17-19 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

